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PP RUEH DU RUEHJO
DE RUEHMR #0007 0101104
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1790
INFO RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 0015
RUEH KI/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA 0003
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 0009
RUEH MV/AMEMBASSY MONROVIA 0001
RUEHAN/AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO 0007
RUEHWD/AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK 0040
RUEH LGB/AMEMBASSY KIGALI 0004
RUEH KH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0500
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0002
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 0001
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 0001
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0001
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0004
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 0001
RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON 0001
RUEHMK/AMEMBASSY MANAMA 0001
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0004
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 0001
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0009
RUEHRK/AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK 0001
RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG 0001
RUEHBM/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 0001
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU 0001
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 0001
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 0001
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 0003
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0001
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0007
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 0001
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0030
RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RUEHMR/AMEMBASSY MASERU 2041

UNCLAS MASERU 000007

SIPDIS

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SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

DEPT FOR IO/T - BLACKWOOD, HHS/GLOBAL HEALTH AFFAIRS - PARTRIDGE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [AORC](#) [TBIO](#) [WHO](#) [LT](#)

SUBJECT: WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD: LESOTHO'S POSITION ON SMALLPOX AGENDA
ITEM

REF: STATE 232766

¶1. (U) Lesotho's Minister of Health Phooko concurred with USG position regarding WHO Smallpox Agenda Item during January 9 discussion with Ambassador. Following review of talking points (reftel), Dr. Phooko stated that the concern of WHO Regional Committee for Africa was a desire for transparency and inclusivity in research activities. Phooko was especially interested in knowing the names of African experts/scientists who might be part of research teams. ACTION REQUEST: Post requests HHS forward this information to us in a timely manner before the GOL/WHO delegation departs for Geneva o/a January 21.

¶2. (SBU) Minister Phooko also alluded to the Regional Committee's concern about misuse of existing virus stockpiles in bioterrorism. He indicated that least developed countries were especially vulnerable to potential attacks. At the same time, he agreed that continued research is needed for the development of better diagnostic tools, development of effective anti-viral drugs and production of improved and safer smallpox vaccines.

¶3. (SBU) Comment: Minister Phooko took the lead for the Africa Regional Committee last year and is expected to be leader during this session also. He is in agreement with the U.S. position

and said he would advance it during the upcoming meeting.

PERRY